

April 20, 1950.

Dr. S. C. Rittenberg,
Dept. Bacteriology,
University of Southern California,
Los Angeles 7, Calif.

Dear Dr. Rittenberg:

I was very sorry to learn of your disappointing conclusions on your Salmonella program. We have just been plugging along, without anything definite as yet. Mr. Zinder has been preparing multiple mutants in some 20 or so different strains of typhimurium [Lilleengen's phage types] and is waiting to complete the preparatory work before plunging into recombination tests.

Unfortunately, I have not planned to attend the Baltimore meetings this year, and so will miss the opportunity of seeing you. Could you possibly include Madison as a stopover on your itinerary?

I will be glad to send you the strains you requested, and will ship them as soon as their viability is checked. However, I hope you will pardon it if we do not check the nutrition. As you say, some of the mutants will revert/if kept/especially/ on a deficient medium. However, you should be able to reisolate the dependent strains from single colonies.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Assistant Professor of Genetics

P.S. I shall be teaching a course at Berkeley during the second summer session (August), and hope to pass through L.A. enroute. Do you expect to be on campus this July?

PPS. I just glanced over our old stocks of the cultures you requested. They are in rather poor shape, but can be resuscitated. However, Prof. E. L. Tatum at Stanford must have them in lyophil. The numbers are 679 (threonine) and 679-662 (threonine-glutamic). I would suggest that you apply to him for the cultures, especially since he first isolated them (P. N. A. S. 31: 215-19 1945). We have since isolated W-828, a histidine-glutamicless, which Tatum has since lyophilized also, and will probably be glad to provide along with the others. Also, Dr. B. D. Davis, 411 E. 69 St., New York 21, has accumulated quite a selection of mutants which should provide optimum material for your purposes. If these alternatives do not work out, however, I will have worked up our cultures in the meantime, and will send them.